(e) Some of the major steps taken by the Central Government to encourage Sanskrit Education are:

(i) Scholarships are given to students in traditional schools and modern schools studying Sanskrit subject.

(ii) Assistance is provided during the plan period to State Govts. for engaging Sanskrit Teachers in their schools; and

(iii) Financial assistance and awards are given to voluntary organisations and scholars to encourage the study of Sanskrit.

**Fake certificates**

2936. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which apeared in the Times of India of 10th January, 1995 under the caption, "Forge certificate racket busted";

(b) if so, what are the facts and necessary details in this regard;

(c) how many persons involved in this racket have been arrested and what action has been taken against them;

(d) what is the number of degrees/certificates of different trades/universities which have been seized and whether the authorities have any estimate about the number of such fake instruments which have already been distributed for misuse; and

(e) what steps government have taken or propose to take to put an end to such activities and also the steps taken to prevent the misuse of such degrees/certificates already issued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) Detailed information is being collected and will be laid on the Tabe of the Sabha.

**Privatisation of Higher Education**

2937. DR. B. B. DUTTA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise the higher education in the country;

(b) if so, what are the relevant details in this regard;

(c) whether Univarsity Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised any guidelines for the establishment of private universities in the country;

(d) if so, what are the details of the guidelines: and

(e) to what extent the privatising of higher education is likely to affect the functioning of the existing universities and the standard of higher education in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (e) The question of allowing establishment of self-financing universities is receiving attention of the Government. Exercises are underway in consultation with University Grants Commission to lay down suitable policies, including an appropriate legislative framework for this purpose.